

WE CLAIM:

1. A sewing machine comprising:
  - a head on which a needle bar for fixing a needle is mounted;
  - 5 a thread cutting blade provided in the head so as to be capable of cutting an end of a thread which is threaded so as to be passed through an eye of the needle; and
  - a holder provided in the head so as to be capable of holding the thread end after the thread end has been cut by the thread
  - 10 cutting blade,
  - wherein the thread cutting blade is positioned so that a first amount of thread from the eye of the needle provided in the head to the thread end held by the holder equals a second amount of thread by which the thread end is drawn to an underside
  - 15 of a cloth in a stitch formed immediately after start of a sewing operation.
2. A sewing machine according to claim 1, further comprising a guide provided in the head for guiding the thread to the thread
- 20 cutting blade, wherein the thread cutting blade, the holder and the guide constitute a thread holding member.
3. A sewing machine according to claim 1, wherein the thread
- 25 cutting blade is positioned so that the first amount of thread is sufficient for the thread end to be prevented from being pulled through the needle eye in a stitch formed immediately after start of a sewing operation.

4. A sewing machine according to claim 3, further comprising  
a needle plate provided in a bed and having a needle hole, wherein  
a distance between the needle eye and the thread cutting blade  
is longer than a distance between the needle eye and the needle  
5 hole of the needle plate.

5. A sewing machine according to claim 1, further comprising  
a threading hook and a threader threading the needle by the  
threading hook, wherein the thread set to be capable of being  
10 threaded is passed through the needle eye by the threading hook  
of the threader while the thread end is held by the holder.

6. A sewing machine according to claim 5, further comprising  
a thread drawer including a thread drawing member wiping the thread  
15 extending downward through the needle eye, the thread drawer  
drawing, by the thread drawing member, a looped thread having  
been passed through the needle eye by the threading hook, thereby  
being released from a looped state, the thread drawing member  
has a thread drawing stroke set so that the thread loop formed  
20 by passing the thread through the needle eye by the threading  
hook is drawn by the thread drawing member such that the thread  
is released from the looped state.

7. A sewing machine according to claim 5, further comprising  
25 a thread holder holding the thread drawn by the thread drawing  
member, wherein an amount of thread extending from the needle  
eye to the thread end held by the holder is set so as to be  
approximately equal to an amount of thread extending from the

needle eye to the thread end held by the thread holder.

8. A sewing machine according to claim 1, further comprising  
a plurality of needle bars and a plurality of the needles provided  
5 on the needle bars respectively.

9. A sewing machine according to claim 8, further comprising  
a needle bar case supporting the needle bars and a mounting base  
provided on the needle bar case, wherein the holder is fixed to  
10 the mounting base and the thread end is held between the mounting  
base and the holder after having been cut.